



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I'm the Director of Cardiopulmonary Services at a Medical Center in Reno Nevada. Recently a question has been asked by both Respiratory Therapy and Nursing Services as to what should be done if anything regarding crossing state lines for neonatal transports. On occasion we will transport babies from South Lake Tahoe, Truckee or maybe Susanville back to our hospital. We are clearly acting under the Medical Direction of a Nevada physician and our team consists of a Respiratory Therapist, RN and a neonatal nurse practitioner. We believe this is an issue that takes place throughout the country and we would like to get an opinion from the California licensing board for Respiratory Therapists on this issue. Specifically is a California license required or could some form of reciprocity take effect?

Response: Transports across state lines does not require any special licensure for practitioners (Physicians, Nurses or Therapists) because the patient is either being transported from its originating state to a new state, or they are being retrieved from a neighboring state and moved to the state where the practitioners are licensed. In either case, care and practices would be carried out as defined by the state in which the transport team originates from. In your case, Nevada's Practice Act and the policies of the medical facility should be followed from the moment the patient is accepted into your care until the time that care is legally handed over to some other medical facility. There is some general language in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations that has some general guidelines for transport teams but nothing specific regarding state-to-state transfers.

Reference #: 2004-C-24